



currents

what's happening at the bridge

Our *mission* at the bridge Presbyterian Church is to
help people

Connect with God's people in your life
Connect with God's purpose in your life
Connect with God's passion for your life

Ways to Connect with God's *mission* at the bridge

- Wed. Nov. 27 - Church Office closing at Noon - Currents will go out Wednesday
- Wed. Nov. 27 - 7:00 pm - Community Thanksgiving Service - Woodburn Pres. Church
- Thu. Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving -- Church Office Closed
- Fri. Nov. 29 - Church Office Closed
- Sun. Dec. 1 - Congregational Meeting to elect new Elders - after 2nd service
- Mon. Dec. 2 - 11:00 am - Communion Luncheon with 1st Pres.
- Mon. Dec. 2 - 2:00 pm - Leland House Worship
- Fri. Dec. 6 - 1:00 pm - Women of the bridge
- Sun. Dec. 8 - 11:45 am - Matthew's Ministry Packing
- Sun. Dec. 8 - Deadline for Equal Exchange orders for Christmas
- Mon. Dec. 9 - 2:00 pm - Leland House Craft Day
- Sun. Dec. 15 - Equal Exchange Christmas order pick up
- Sun. Dec. 22 - 3:00 pm - Family Caroling around Fire Pits at Boettcher's House
- Tue. Dec. 24 - 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service
- Tue. Dec. 24 - Potluck Supper and Caroling after service at Boettcher's House

Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing Elders Class of 2022

Sunday Dec. 1st - after 2nd service

Weekly Small Groups

- Mon. - 6:00 pm - Boy Scouts and SOS (Siblings of Scouts)
- Tue. - 10:00 am - Sleep Mats for Homeless
- Tue. - 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Group Meeting
- Tue. - 7:00 pm - A.A. Group Meeting
- Wed. - 8:00 am - Men's Prayer and Share Small Group
- Sat. - 7:00 pm - A.A. Group Meeting

**Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing
Elders - Class of 2022
Sunday Dec. 1st - after 2nd service**

We will be voting on new elders to fill 3 year terms on session. These new elders will fill positions of elders who have completed their 3 year terms.

A huge thank you to the Nominating Committee, who have worked many hours to discern God's will. The nominating committee consists of Patti Pirher, Ethel Adams, Pat Smith, David Sink and Dennis Rumpf (who recused himself while the team discussed Hospitality Elder)

The nominating committee has nominated the following:

- Charles Riddle - Long Range Planning Ministry Elder
- Fran Rumpf - Hospitality Ministry Elder
- Julie Shackleton - Small Group Elder

Bios for Prospective Elders

Charlie Riddle - Long Range Planning

I was a Methodist all my life, from baptism until a period before moving here in 2014, when I attended a Presbyterian Church. I felt God's calling to help and direct others in learning life and God's will. I started my road of education by teaching 5th grade Sunday School when I was 15. I was Chairman of Outreach for a period of 12 years, organizing help to those in need, both locally and in other countries. I went on to teach high school history, be a Vice-Principal and high school Principal before retiring. I was also elected and served 16 years on a borough council as head of finance and ordinance, thus helping my community in many ways.

Moving to Leland in 2014, I started my search for a church home. After trying many in Wilmington, I decided to go to Crosswinds. As I approached the parking lot, my car turned right to park in front of the bridge. I was greeted by some very warm and friendly people asking "Are you coming to the bridge?" to which I answered "I guess so". The warmth I found that Sunday drew me back the next Sunday and helped me realize I was where God wanted me to be! From that point on, I have been involved. I have co-facilitated and facilitated small group studies. I sang in our Easter choir and answered the call to serve on two committees, Building and Grounds and Generosity. I now feel I have the direction from God to help us all as we develop and enlarge our church on Zion Church Road. May God Guide and be with us all as the bridge moves forward.

Fran Rumpf - Hospitality

Having been born into a family of Pentecostal ministers I do not remember a time when God was not walking with me. My earliest memories are of being in church. My father, an Elder, died at church at the age of 39. I was 6. Faith got my mother through the many hardships that came with raising 4 girls all alone. The strength she received through her faith was not only an example for me but also became my comfort when I lost my first husband to cancer. I was just 23. Had I not had a deep and abiding faith, I doubt I could have made it this far.

While faith was always a part of my journey, my personal walk came when I was 11. I remember the exact moment I came to Christ and the Holy Spirit flooded me with saving grace. I was baptized by immersion. Through the years, I have been asked to serve as Elder but declined because I had not felt the "call". I served in other ways.

When Dennis and I moved to this area 2 years ago, we immediately began looking for a church home. Each time I went shopping, I would see the signs for the bridge and felt drawn. After our initial "yikes, it's a shopping center", we came to service and felt the Holy Spirit moving within the people here. It was palpable. We were home. I now hear the call to serve the people of God's church here at the bridge. This is our family. God's family. I am grateful and humbled to be nominated and if elected will serve faithfully and prayerfully as your Elder.

Julie Shackleton - Small Group

I was led to the Lord over 30 years ago by a neighbor, after being invited to a Bible Study in her home. Having been raised in the Catholic church, this was a new and different experience for me. I was intrigued by my neighbor's passion and love for Jesus. Because of this, I found myself wanting more of a relationship with the Lord...and so began my journey to know Jesus. This is a journey that brought Larry & I to the bridge. When we move to a new location, we normally visit with many churches.

After our first visit to the bridge, we felt God had "led" us to "our" church. The warmth and welcoming spirit we enjoyed were just what we had been praying for! We joined a small group and enjoyed the many benefits of these groups. It is my hope to grow and meet with joy this new challenge in my journey! Thank you for this opportunity to serve the bridge.

The bridge Core Habits

What does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like at **the bridge**? Our core habits answer that question. Our core habits are:

*Pray daily - Worship together weekly - Welcome & Include everyone - Belong to a small group -
Give generously - Cherish children -
Forgive & reconcile continually - Serve our community*

Worship Weekly



Beginning Sunday December 1st, Dr. Doug will launch a new Advent sermon series titled: Here Comes God, based on the Old Testament book of Micah. Advent, the four weeks we spend preparing for the coming of Christ at Christmas is a season designed to be a wake -up call to those who have lost their edge of spiritual alertness. And, the book of Micah, with all its warnings and judgments, is an ideal book to study during Advent because Micah is like that police car speeding up behind us, with lights flashing and siren blaring, raising our spiritual alertness by disturbing us and, then, offering us hope.

Here Comes God, is a message that may feel a bit disturbing, but it's a blessing nonetheless...a blessing designed to prepare you to receive Christ anew on Christmas Eve. Join us at 9:00 am or 10:30 am and bring a friend or neighbor.

Date: December 1, 2019

Title: Here Comes God

Text: Micah 1; I Timothy 1: 2 – 17

Questions:

- Have you ever been pulled over for speeding? If so, do you remember how you felt?
- Chapter one of Micah can be summed up in three words: "Here Comes God!" How would you react to the announcement that the Lord is coming back this Dec 25th?
- Are we, like the people Micah preached to, unaware of how far we have strayed from God?

Epiphany Sunday 2020
The bridge Presbyterian Church
Celebrating Divine New Discoveries
Congregational Participation!

Explanation:

Sunday January 5th is Epiphany Sunday. Epiphany means manifestation or appearance. Traditionally on Epiphany Sunday, the Church has focused on the story of the Magi's visit and/or the baptism of Jesus celebrating manifestations of God to the world. Epiphany can also be translated as 'new discovery.'

This Epiphany Sunday at the bridge we want to try something different. But we NEED your help! Building on the theme of 'new discovery,' we are asking folks at the bridge to share the following information on either a three by five card or by email:

Share a passage of scripture that has brought new light or a fresh understanding about the Lord and/or your Christian faith over the past two years. (Please write out the passage with the appropriate citation)

Underneath that passage, please write one or two words that describe the 'new discovery' this passage gave to you.

Then, underneath the one or two words, please write your name.

We will then share these with the congregation via power point slides during the worship service.

Example:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

(Proverbs 3; 4 -5)

Guidance

Steve Jones

Deadline:

We need all submissions into the church office by January 2nd. This idea will not work without your help. So, please consider participating in this unique worship service. Drop your submission into the offering plate, drop it by the church office or email it to Wanda at thebridgepres@gmail.com



bridge "Notes" from Patty

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving! May your turkey be juicy and your hearth warm and friendly. Go easy on the salt... Enjoy this Thanksgiving video and compliment the chef no matter what!

See ya Sunday

https://youtu.be/x1QC2_2l9ug



White Poinsettias for the Worship Center during Advent

As the Worship Team is preparing the Sanctuary for the upcoming Advent Season, we have had many requests to include poinsettias honoring loved ones around the stage area. So, in order to fulfill this request as easily as possible, we have come up with an idea that we want to present to our people at the bridge. If you desire to place a poinsettia in the Worship Center for the Advent Season, we ask you to purchase your own **white or light pink in color poinsettia in any size** and place it in the Worship Center one Sunday in Advent.

Please place your name on the bottom of the plant pot so you can claim the plant at the end of service on Christmas Eve. Also fill out a form found in the back of the worship center on the bulletin board or the table below the bulletin board with your name and who you are honoring with the plant or plants. Please put the completed form in the basket on that table so we can announce the honorees in Currents. If you have any further questions, please contact Cathy Boettcher, Elder of Worship Team. Cboettcher116@gmail.com

Welcome and Include Everyone

Servers for Sunday, December 1st

Ushers



9:00 am – Sandy and Peter Barrett, John Lapatchka, Sarah Noll

10:30 am - Bettye Weihs, Cathy Purves, Rich and Ruth Hepner

Communion Servers

9:00 am - Greer and Tom Broadwater, Patti Pirher, Susan Stanewick

10:30 am - Patricia Shaffar, Clyde Queen, Pat Spencer, Larry Shackleton



Communion Releasers

9:00 am - Jill Weldon, Charlie Riddle

10:30 am - Cathy and Andrew Purves

Connecting Partners



9:00 am - Kathy Dixon

10:30 am - Judy Bath and Suzanne Veen

Greeters



9:00 am - Sandy and Peter Barrett

10:30 am - Rich and Ruth Hepner



Pray Daily

- Cathy Boettcher and family in the death of her sister, Donna

Give Generously

Last Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019

Attendance 137 (4-week average)
Offering \$ 5,764 (4-week average)
Offering \$ 5,346 (8-week average)
Actual Attendance 140
Actual Offering \$ 6,758

Belong to a Small Group

Cherish Children

bridge Builders, our Sunday morning children's program, is located in suite 206 during the 10:30 service. A nursery for infants and toddlers is also provided during the 10:30 service

Sunday Dec. 1st :



Teacher: Cathy Boettcher

Toddlers/Babies: Elizabeth Murray and Gidget Karlof

Serve Our Community

From the Mission Elder

One purpose of our Mission Team is to form partnerships with vetted assistance and service organizations so we can most effectively help the people of Northern Brunswick County and the world. Another is to provide a variety of mission projects to help our members connect with their passion and purpose for life.

There is great need and our bridge family is very generous. However, we don't want folks to get overwhelmed with giving options, and don't want them to feel pressured to support every project. Let us know if you have ideas for donations, but please do not provide information to the congregation without asking the Mission Team first.

Thank you, Patti Pirher



Christmas Stockings for Kids World Academy



Thanks to the generous spirit of our bridge family, all of the children have been sponsored for our Christmas Stocking Project. Please return your filled stockings to our church, and cross your name off the sign up sheet by December 15. Delivery will be Thursday, December 19, at 10:00a.m., at 9272 Post Office Rd.NE, Leland. All are welcome.

Thank you for supporting this Sustainable Mission Partner of the bridge.



December Mission Opportunity

Some of us may have missed out on providing a stocking for a child at Kids World Academy. So, we have a new mission opportunity. One of our sustainable partners, Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA), is joining with the U.S. Marines in their Toys for Tots program. We will be collecting items for this program which is for kids age 0 to 16. The greatest need is for 13-16 years old. Some suggestions are soccer or basketballs, make-up kits or jewelry, etc. If you have grandkids in that age group, maybe a shopping trip with them would be fun or at least get suggestions from them. Please bring the gift, unwrapped, to the church by December 15th if you wish to participate in this opportunity. They will be delivered to BFA in Shallotte.



Service of Lessons and Carols at Leland House

On Monday, December 2nd, we will celebrate the Advent season with the residents of Leland House at a special worship service. We will be telling the Christmas story through Scripture readings and singing Christmas carols. At this service we will need **several readers** and people to help with Christmas refreshments after our worship. Please sign up on the sheet outside the Worship Center if you are able to help with the worship or the fellowship. All are welcome to join us!! Leland House is an Assisted Living and Memory Care facility in Leland (1935 Lincoln Rd NE).



The Leland House Angel Tree is ready!

To adopt a resident for Christmas, take an Angel off the tree at Leland House, write your name, phone number and email next to the Angel's number in the folder. Take the Angel tag shopping to purchase the resident's wish list of items. Wrap the gifts and return them with the Angel tag by December 20.

Leland House is located at 1935 Lincoln Road NE, in Leland.

Thank you for supporting this Sustainable Mission Partner of the bridge.

Women's Communion Luncheon

The Women from First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington have extended an invitation to the Women at the bridge to share a Communion Service with them on December 2nd at 11AM. Following this service we have been invited to join these women for a light lunch in Gilmore Hall. What a generous invitation for fellowship and worship with our sister church. Let's try to form a large group to partake of this invitation. Any Questions, contact Cathy Boettcher at cboettcher116@gmail.com

Misc. Announcements

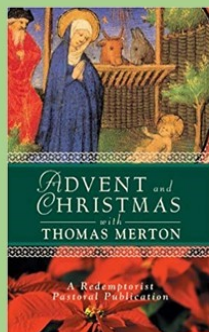
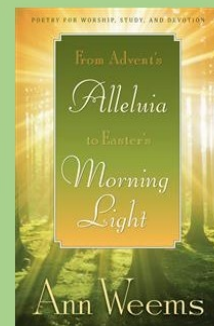
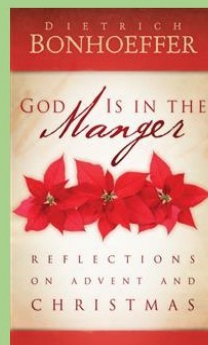
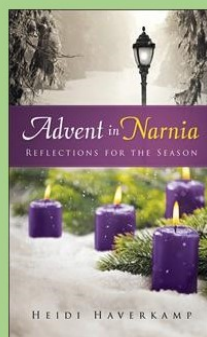
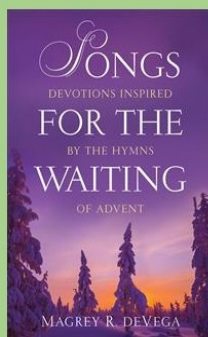
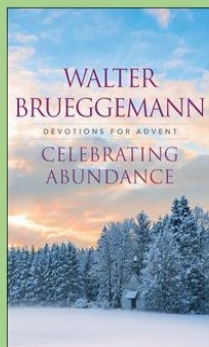
Celebrating Birthdays at the bridge - November



Patti Pirher	4
Elizabeth Murray	13
Judy Bath	17
Del Shaffar	17
Peter Barrett	22
Sharon Cushing	22
Donna Maher	22
Lynne Lewis	29

Advent Devotional Resources you may want to order.

Advent Devotional Resources 2019



Advent
Devotion
For
Families



Available at:

<https://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/>

OR:

<https://www.amazon.com/>

Family Devotional available at:

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/1711619007/presbyterians-today-advent-devotional-2019.aspx>



It's Equal Exchange Holiday Gift Time!



This year give a gift that makes a difference. Fill a holiday gift bag with Equal Exchange fairly traded coffee, chocolate bars and minis, and hot cocoa mix or purchase holiday gift baskets of coffee (one bag), a bag of minis, and a chocolate bar.

We at the bridge support small-scale farmers all over the world through the purchase of these items from Equal Exchange in partnership with the Presbyterian Coffee Project. Equal Exchange coffee is the delicious coffee we serve every Sunday.

From Sunday **November 3 to December 10**, you'll have a chance to order customized Holiday Gift Bags as well as chocolate bars and gift baskets.

Here's how it works: Order forms and product information sheets will be available on the Equal Exchange table on Sundays beginning November 3. Just fill in an order form for each gift you'd like, return it with your payment, and we'll package the goodies in a holiday gift bag.

For Christmas: Order by December 10 for pick up on December 15.

If you can not come to the bridge to pick up your order - please let us know and we will make arrangements to get it to you. For more information, contact Sandy Sears at 910-228-5828 slsocc@yahoo.com or Marilyn Vernon at 301-908-8704 mari-lyn.vernon2@gmail.com.

Please copy and paste the links to print copies of order forms if needed:

Gift Bags:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=9ba035169c&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1650739125429049630&th=16e89a7d1409991e&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_k37i2bgi0

Gift Baskets:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=9ba035169c&attid=0.2&permmsgid=msg-f:1650739125429049630&th=16e89a7d1409991e&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_k37i2nqo1

Living Proof with Beth Moore in Wilmington

On April 24th and 25th, 2020, Living Proof Live with **Beth Moore** is coming to Wilmington, NC. Travis Cottrell will be leading the worship portion of this retreat at Trask Coliseum on the campus of UNCW.

The bridge will be collecting checks made out to **LifeWay Women Events for \$65**. To reserve a general admission ticket, you must get this check to Wanda Batten by December 20th. On the 20th all checks will be sent to LifeWay to reserve our general admission tickets. If we can send in 75 or more checks, we will be guaranteed a priority section for our church and our guests. We have invited First Presbyterian to help us make this quota and we ask you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us so we can all be together to experience this event.

For further information go to [LifeWay.com/Living Proof](http://LifeWay.com/LivingProof) or call 800-254-2022.



Session Meeting Summary, November 6, 2019

Clerk of Session, Susan Stanewick

The Session met for its regular stated meeting. Pastor Doug Cushing opened with prayer. Devotion provided by Patricia Shaffar. Minutes were approved.

Clerk's report: East Community Leader Training, Camp Kirkwood November 23 9-3 Registration is open to ruling elders and anyone who is interested. It will cover Book of Order, Book of Confessions, Church Leaders as Pastoral Care Givers and Presbytery Updates.

Pastor's report: Message of gratitude from Doug and Sharon was shared with the elders who created the video tribute for Pastor Appreciation month. Special thank you is extended to Romie Holmes and Cathy Boettcher.

Communication has been made with Nancy Gladden from Presbytery re: possible hosting of June community gathering with featured speaker from Pinnacle Leadership Associates.

Building and Grounds: A template application was provided for elders to review, upon approval it will be used by for-profit organizations to apply for use of the bridge facilities. Unanimously approved with change of the term "Administrative Assistant to Office Manager"

Disaster Recovery Ministry: Significant progress has been made on the Raleigh rebuild project. Much of the dry wall installation has been finished and new lighting fixtures are being installed. Information: The first planning session for the 2020 Brunswick County Hurricane Forum/ Expo will be held in Southport on Thursday, November 14th. Bridge team members will be attending and will participate on the planning committee. The Forum is tentatively scheduled for May 2nd at Odell Williamson Auditorium.

Generosity: The 2020 budget is being created and all elders are requested to submit requests ASAP. A gift has been received from the estate of Dwight Warnock. Financial information has been sent to all elders for review.

Hospitality: A meet and greet social is scheduled for November 17th at Brunswick Forest community room for a low country boil.

Mission: Items for Hope Harbor Home were delivered, and they were very thankful. Our church-wide mission project will be Christmas stockings for Kids World Academy

Prayer and Care: Power of Prayer Project Update: Committee formed and had its first planning meeting on November 6th, with anticipation of launching the project in March 2020. Appreciation was extended to Cathy Purves and Marilyn Vernon for an informative and enlightening program for the women's group with regard to the power of prayer.

Small Groups: This ministry will continue to meet to revise the organization of sermon based small groups and other small interest groups.

Worship: Chrismon ornament group is moving forward at an enthusiastic pace. Other agenda topics will be considered at the worship team meeting. Doug's Advent series will come from Micah, Here Comes God. First Presbyterian Church will be inviting women to communion luncheon, Charlynnne Caillaud is the contact. Woodburn Presbyterian Church has invited us to Thanksgiving service Wednesday evening.

Communications/New business:

Proposed Holiday Closing for Church Office

Jan 1st & 2nd - if these fall on weekend - days off will be determined

MLK Jr - 3rd Monday in Jan

Memorial Day - 4th Monday in May

July 4th & 5th - if these fall on weekend - days off will be determined

Labor Day - 1st Monday in September

Thanksgiving Day and Friday - 4th Thursday and Friday in November (possibly close early on Wed.)

December 25 & 26 - if these fall on weekend - days off will be determined

Nominating Team: Patti Pirher report via Doug; A meeting was held November 4; 2 individuals have agreed and 3rd praying for decision. A congregational meeting will be called as soon as all nominees have accepted.

SESSION RETREAT PORTION

Review information re: transition from pastoral to program size church

Review notes from retreat

The elders realize that a season of discernment may take months and are asking the congregation for their prayers during this time.

Next Stated Meeting: December 4, 2019 @ the bridge worship center, 4PM



Bridge Community Bulletin Board



Woodburn Presbyterian Church is holding a community-wide Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, Nov 27th @ 7:00pm. The church is located at 509 Village Rd NE, Leland

Travel Opportunity for Friends at the bridge!

April 29 - May 10, 2020



We are looking for traveling companions as we plan for an 11 day European River Boat Cruise from Basel in Switzerland to Amsterdam on the Rhine River. This is an all-inclusive Uni-world Cruise (food, drink, daily excursions, and gratuities are all included). We'll qualify for a greatly reduced group rate if we reserve five cabins. Approximate cost for a deluxe cabin (large picture window) is \$3,500.00 per person, plus airfare (\$705.00 per person) and travel insurance (\$450 per person). For more information look for the "Remarkable Rhine & Historic Holland" cruise at uniworld.com, or speak with Andrew and Cathy Purves who can email you a brochure, or contact our travel agent, Angie Fanning - angie@awaybug.com; 910-233-2220.

At Montreal Conference Center

Stronger Together: Faith in Action Across Generations
An Older Adult Ministry Regional Conference not to be missed!



Carla Karst

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